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**STATE OF NEW YORK**  
**LEGISLATURE OF ERIE COUNTY**

BUFFALO, NY, SEPTEMBER 1, 2018

***Celebrating the Glorious 110<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Mamie Kirkland, an  
Inspiring Beacon of Hope, Resilience and Longevity***

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Mamie Kirkland consistently dedicates her life to being a positive inspiration and role model to everyone she meets, was born in Ellisville, Mississippi in 1908 during a time of fear, hardship and turmoil for her family and many like them; and

**WHEREAS**, understanding firsthand the struggle and adversity of living during an era of fear for African Americans, Mrs. Kirkland and her family were forced to flee Mississippi in 1915, fearing that her father would be lynched, and later having to flee East St. Louis, Missouri for the same acts of violence, mobs and terror, migrated to Alliance, Ohio; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Kirkland met and married the late Albert Kirkland in Canton, Ohio and relocated to Buffalo, NY in 1924, whose union of 35 years produced nine children, spans six generation is the proud matriarch of over 100 grandchildren; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Kirkland embarked on life paths that enhanced her skills, unique and elegance and personal style of community service, was an entrepreneur, selling Avon product, a teacher, counselor, substitute parent, and confessor to many who sought her knowledge, wisdom, compassion and truth ; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Kirkland decided to return to Mississippi after 100 years, gained publicity being featured on the front cover of the New York Times, and was presented with a Champion of Justice medallion as the oldest lynching survivor at the opening of the Equal Justice Initiative's national Legacy Museum: From Slavery to Mass Incarceration and the Peace and Justice Memorial in Montgomery, Alabama; and

**WHEREAS**, Mrs. Kirkland's story is one of the five featured digital stories that are on permanent display at the museum, it also became essential to create a documentary film about the experiences, challenges and triumphs of her courageous journey by her son, Tarabu Betserai Kirkland; and

**NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT**

**RESOLVED**, that the Erie County Legislature does hereby honor and commend Mrs. Mamie Kirkland, the oldest citizen living in the City of Buffalo and second oldest in New York State, for her commitment to generosity, uplifting the spirits of others; and be it further

**RESOLVED**, that this Honorable Body celebrates the 110<sup>th</sup> Birthday of Mrs. Mamie Kirkland and expresses our thanks and appreciation for sharing her remarkable story of grace, courage and endurance as she is recognized on September 1, 2018 at the Grapevine at Ellicott Creek Banquet Facility in Amherst, NY.

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**Hon. Barbara Miller-Williams**  
*Erie County Legislator, 1<sup>st</sup> District*

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**Robert M. Graber**  
*Clerk of the Erie County Legislature*